UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/419
25 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The recently intensified crimes of ethnic cleansing, murder, torture and destruction of religious sites directed against the Catholic inhabitants of the Banja Luka region by the Serbian occupation authorities continues unabated.

Maybe we all have become immune to the most immediate victims, the Catholics, Gypsies, Muslims and others, in the Banja Luka region of Serbian campaigns of ethnic cleansing and persecution after so many crimes have already been effectively overlooked without adequate response. Other more cynical parties have come to rationalize these crimes by the often promoted but bankrupt view employed to justify no response, that is that all are engaged in these types of crimes. Besides being untrue, this argument lacks both a moral and a legal foundation.

Three years ago in the Banja Luka region, ethnic cleansing, really genocide, was perpetuated against the non-Serb population of the area without provocation or even preceding fighting in any of the victimized villages and towns. In fact, the systematic campaign against the Muslims culminated with the destruction of all mosques and Islamic religious sites in the region. The Serbian extremists have now used the fighting in Western Slavonia as a most convenient pretext to complete their repugnant work against the Catholic population, in particular. Unfortunately, some are only too prepared to give credence to real or imagined pretexts, ignoring the moral, and logical, flows of their arguments.

Some United Nations officials may have overlooked the international border between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as our sovereignty, when offering in writing to transfer not only Serb civilians but also armed Serbian combatants from Western Slavonia across the border into our country.

This signals inadequate and inappropriate sensitivity to our sovereignty and international border. We hope that this insensitivity does not also extend to rationalizing, by real or fabricated pretexts, the victimization of our innocent civilian population.

May I ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Permanent Representative